



DATA SCIENTIST

SALARY *OUTLOOK*

2026

Data Scientists rank **#4** in Best Technology Jobs 2025 Worldwide

- USNews.com



Thinking about taking raw data and turning it into actionable decisions that shape entire businesses, and getting a paycheck that aligns with your influence on decisions. This is the power of being a data scientist. *The US News 2025 Best Technology Jobs scorecard* also revealed the data scientist's job role as the **highest scorer (6.8)** in wage potential. *Do you understand what that infers?* Simply put, data science jobs are the highest-paid roles among a diversified range of occupations present worldwide today. Isn't that a big push to get up and rolling?

Top data science professionals can make over **\$200K** in the U.S. (*Glassdoor 2025*), and skilled professionals in IT, finance, and biotechnology have consistently secured six-figure salaries. The best part? You get to take advantage of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data to stay ahead of the curve. That's right, this isn't just about numbers; it's your blueprint to making a career where your curiosity, skills, and strategies open doors of opportunities, influence, and income.

Let's take a look at this factsheet and find out how you can map your career journey to the year 2026. Data scientists are the backbone that strengthens the data science industry structure manifold. It is by far the most trailblazing career trajectory; to encompass massive traction from global industry recruiters as well as data science enthusiasts. From:

-  **Leveraging AI and generative models** to automate data pre-processing and model building
-  **Developing real-time predictive and prescriptive analytics** for dynamic decision-making
-  **Integrating diverse datasets**, including unstructured and IoT data, for deeper insights
-  **Building explainable AI solutions** to ensure transparency and trust
-  **Partnering closely** with business leaders to drive strategic decisions and innovation

Businesses are concentrating on data democratization and responsible AI, which allows teams with and without technical expertise to use insights for quicker, data-driven decision-making. The global market expansion demonstrates how important data science is in influencing corporate strategies around the world.

TOP EMERGING DATA SCIENCE JOBS DEMAND SCORE & SALARIES

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"Many of today's most in-demand jobs didn't exist a few years ago. Employers are shifting to skills-based hiring, prioritizing competencies over formal degrees. Over 20% of professionals in Asia Pacific now hold job titles that didn't exist two decades ago."

– Chua Pei Ying, Head Economist, LinkedIn



There is no one-size-fits-all approach to a data scientist job; as the pay varies depending on the role you perform. The following are a few of the most trending job roles in today's digital landscape.

AI DATA SCIENTIST

Creates and improves AI and machine learning models to address practical issues like process automation and customer behavior prediction. They glean insights from intricate information and convert them into workable plans that propel company expansion.

US\$ 191,000 pa

(aijobs.net)

DATA ARCHITECT

Creates and manages an organization's data systems, making sure the information is accessible, safe, and well-organized. They develop scalable data frameworks to meet the demands of business intelligence, analytics, and machine learning.

US\$ 189,000 pa

(builtin.com)

DATA PRIVACY OFFICER (DPO)

Ensures that the organization complies with international data protection laws such as the CCPA and GDPR. To reduce risk and foster trust, they create privacy policies, keep an eye on data usage, and protect critical information.

US\$ 172,927 pa

(salary.com)

DATA SCIENCE MANAGER

Leads data science teams to deliver actionable insights for business decision-making. They plan projects, allocate resources, mentor analysts, & ensure data initiatives align with goals.

US\$ 238,786 pa

(glassdoor.com)

SENIOR DATA ANALYST

With a complex dataset, the analyst seeks to identify trends, correlations, and insights that can lead to a tactical impact on the business strategy. The security data analyst will lead projects on reporting, develop sophisticated dashboards, and provide mentoring to junior analysts, ensuring accurate, appropriate, and timely data-driven decisions.

US\$ 185,000 pa

(levels.fyi)

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE (BI) DEVELOPER

Uses dashboards, reports, and visualizations to turn unstructured data into insightful information. They support businesses in monitoring performance, streamlining processes, and formulating strategic choices grounded in solid analytics.

US\$ 153,400 pa

(builtin.com)

DATA ENGINEER

Constructs and maintains the pipelines and infrastructure necessary to enable data to move seamlessly from source to analysis. They guarantee that data is dependable, clean, and prepared for use in reporting, analytics, and artificial intelligence applications.

US\$ 133,890 pa

(salary.com)

QUANTUM COMPUTING DATA SCIENTIST

To address challenging computational issues, a quantum computing data scientist creates and uses quantum algorithms. They integrate quantum solutions with classical systems, optimize quantum models, and analyze quantum data.

US\$ 181,420 pa

(glassdoor.com)

TOP DRIVERS BEHIND DATA SCIENTIST SALARY

Location: Global Data Science Salary Comparison

The data reveals a global divide:

Established countries like the United States, Switzerland, and Australia place a high value on experience, while developing hubs like India provide expansion opportunities, indicating the direction that the next generation of talent will take the industry.

Country	Average / Median Annual Salary 2025
	\$151,803
	\$130,000
	\$66,000
	\$85,000
	\$143,000
	\$74,000

- Sources: Glassdoor & Payscale

Highest-Paying U.S. Cities for Data Scientists

Location greatly impacts a data scientist's salary. *Zippia's 2025 report* indicates that the average annual salaries for data scientists are highest in cities such as Richmond, Redmond, and New York.

City	Average Annual Salary (USD)
Richmond, CA	\$129,871
Redmond, WA	\$112,336
New York, NY	\$99,006
Boston, MA	\$94,169
Jersey City, NJ	\$90,513
Phoenix, AZ	\$89,897
Washington, DC	\$89,632
Hartford, CT	\$88,948
Hillsboro, OR	\$88,069
Arlington, VA	\$86,787

- Sources: Glassdoor & Payscale

DATA SCIENTIST SALARY BY INDUSTRY

Depending on the industry you are working in, it can significantly change your annual salary as a Data Scientist in the United States. As per Glassdoor, the highest paying industries are as follows:



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

This industry is the highest-paying sector, with an average annual salary of approximately **\$149,399**, demonstrating companies' need for data-driven solutions, as they consistently require significant development resources.



FINANCIAL SERVICES:

The data scientists in this sector average **\$131,305**, as analytics is critical in supporting risk management, trading, and prospective investments.



PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY:

The average salary is **\$125,151**, as data modeling is necessary to enable drug developers to develop drugs, to support clinical trials, and to conduct research.



RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE:

The professionals in this sector are approx **\$124,366**, using data to support supply chain processes, predict customer behavior, and identify improvements in operational efficiency.



ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION SECTOR:

The average salary in this sector is **\$123,389**, where education majors use data to measure audiences, personalize content, and measure strategies to engage audiences.

DATA SCIENTIST SALARY BY EDUCATION

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Bachelor's Degree

Based on *Zippia*, data scientists with a bachelor's degree make an average salary of **\$101,455** per year.

Master's Degree

If you hold a master's degree in data science or a related discipline, *Zippia* indicates the average salary increases **\$109,454** per year.

PhD

Advanced roles that require a PhD, such as research scientists or AI specialists, typically earn **\$130,000 - \$230,000** per year (*Glassdoor*). You are more likely to remove six figures if you work in academia, research, or top tech.

DATA SCIENTIST SALARY BY EXPERIENCE

According to *Glassdoor's 2025 U.S. averages*, the following is the typical salary distribution based on experience:

Years of Experience	Average Salary (USD)		
0-1 year	\$110,755	7-9 years	\$133,377
1-3 years	\$119,306	10-14 years	\$145,791
4-6 years	\$127,125	15+ years	\$160,545

As you can see, there is a predictable upward progression of compensation and salary; based solely on long-term professional commitment and accumulated experience.

SALARIES OFFERED BY THE WORLD'S LEADING DATA SCIENCE COMPANIES IN USA

Global Giants	Highest Annual Salary (USD) 2025	Source
 Microsoft	\$559,361	Levels.fyi
 stripe	\$380,000	Levels.fyi
 Google	\$895,000	Levels.fyi
 Meta	\$301,000	Glassdoor
 NETFLIX	\$721,000	Levels.fyi
 IBM	\$300,000	Levels.fyi
 CLOUDERA	\$294,000	Glassdoor
 databricks	\$283,000	Glassdoor
 Walmart	\$350,000	Levels.fyi
 snowflake	\$471,500	Levels.fyi

TIPS TO INCREASE YOUR DATA SCIENTIST SALARY

1. PROGRESS INTO LEADERSHIP ROLES

Advance into **Team Lead, Data Science Manager, or CDO roles** to earn **multiple times** more than individual contributors and influence **strategic business decisions**.

2. EARN ADVANCED CERTIFICATIONS

Advanced vendor- and industry-neutral data science certifications, equip you with in-demand skills in AI, machine learning, big data, cloud, IoT, and data analytics; boosting your expertise and earning potential manifold.

*Fact: USDSI®'s Research and Development Department reveals, demand for data scientists will **grow at 28%** through 2030, while a skilled workforce shortage score may reach **43%**. Advanced qualifications can **boost earning potential by up to 40%**. Additionally, USDSI® aims to certify **100K** professionals by 2030; opening massive doors of data science career opportunities for the deserving.*

3. DEVELOP SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Focus on Machine Learning, Big Data, Cloud, and Advanced Analytics, and combining technical competencies with communication and problem-solving capabilities shall boost your yearly compensation.

4. BUILD A STRONG PORTFOLIO

Showcase expertise in exemplary and diversified data science projects, competitions, or open-source work to highlight your data science skills and attract higher-paying dream data science job roles.

5. STAY AHEAD WITH EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Specialize in generative AI, large language models (LLMs), and hybrid roles (*such as Data Science and Product Management*) to stay in high demand and command top salaries.

LEAD THE WAY WITH USDSI®

For many people, data science is a long-term career and not just a high-paying job.

United States Data Science Institute (USDSI®) fore marks the data science industry to grow multi-fold in the years to follow and commits to certify over **100K** professionals by 2030. With data fundamentally changing every industry; ramping up your data skills and growing your expertise will allow you to contribute to decisions in any industry of your choice.

United States Data Science Institute (USDSI®) offers a array of data science certifications that allow enough room for every data aspirant to make it to the industry stands. We at **USDSI®** understand building a thriving career in data science in 2026 could be overwhelming for you all alone! IBM, HP, Accenture, Amazon, HCL, Google, and Microsoft are some of the prestigious organizations where USDSI-certified data science professionals serve in varied capacities. That is why we make it convenient for you to pick from the following globally-leading credentials that can help you realise your professional goal in possibly no time.



These vendor- and industry-neutral certifications are crafted to suit every need of the future data science prodigy. World-class futuristic data science skills, tools and techniques, greater employability, a whopping **40%** raise in the expected salary structure, global recognition- are some of the perks of getting certified with **USDSI®**. When assessing your salary, do not forget to evaluate the impact that you are going to make across the organizational growth pathways. Embrace your career by remaining curious, applying new tools, and keeping your expertise in-sync with the most-recent industry needs.

Your big break could be as simple as moving from a six-figure entry-level role to a level of data governance that pays you **\$250k** or even higher, a space where not only do you prosper financially, but also play an invincible role in building the data-driven future.

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The United States Data Science Institute (USDSI[®]) is deemed a high-end and in-depth technical certification provider for Data Science Professionals and leads the global panorama in Data Science Organizational Transformation, Innovation, and Leadership.

USDSI[®] researches, designs, and certifies personnel who enter or engage in various emerging Data Science Majors.

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